



*SUPERIOR COURT OF  
CALIFORNIA  
COUNTY OF SOLANO*

Executive Office  
600 Union Avenue  
Fairfield, CA 94533  
Phone (707) 207-7475  
Fax (707) 421-7817

## Press Release

Contact: Brian K. Taylor  
Court Executive Officer  
Phone: (707) 207-7467

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
December 17, 2020  
Fairfield, California

### **PRESIDING JUDGE DONNA STASHYN ISSUES ORDER TO LIMIT THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE ALLOWED IN SOLANO COUNTY COURTHOUSES AMID SPIKE IN COUNTY AND STATEWIDE COVID-19 INFECTIONS**

**EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY**, public access to courthouses is restricted to authorized persons only and measures to enforce social distancing in courthouse hallways and courtrooms will be strictly enforced as coronavirus cases and hospitalizations surge in Solano County, Presiding Judge Donna L. Stashyn announced today.

Under Court Order (M-18-2020) issued today, public access to courthouses is limited at all times to judicial officers, court employees, co-lessees, Judicial Council staff, vendors, jurors, mediators, authorized persons (including news media representatives and news reporters), attorneys, litigants and witnesses with matters on calendar, and individuals with confirmed appointments.

Recently, despite mandatory and previous Orders requiring the use of face masks and social distancing and ubiquitous signage in each courthouse reiterating the face mask and social distancing mandates, attorneys, litigants, and others remove their masks, wear their mask improperly, and/or fail to observe social distancing while in courthouses. Non-compliance with the basic protective measures that this Court has repeatedly required by way of prior Orders may increase the spread of COVID-19.

In the interest of enforcing social distancing and to reduce the number of people in the courthouses, effective immediately, members of the public, not otherwise referenced above, who wish to attend a court proceeding may do so upon advance request and at the discretion of the judicial officer presiding over the matter. Instructions on how to make such a request are available on the Court's website at the COVID-19 page at "Access to Remote Hearings". All persons attending remotely must comply with applicable California Rules of Court, including Rule 1.150. There shall be no recording by anyone of the court proceeding, hearing or trial.

"We continue to strive to adapt operations as circumstances change in order to promote the health and safety of all who enter the courthouses while balancing access to justice, freedom of the press, and public access to proceedings," Judge Stashyn said.

To address concerns about lack of social distancing in some courthouse hallways and public areas, all attorneys, litigants, witnesses and authorized persons are prohibited from gathering with or speaking to anyone outside their household in courthouse hallways or public areas of the Court unless they can do so at least six feet apart from each other and while wearing masks over their nose and mouth.

To enforce social distancing, each court department shall schedule only the number of matters during each session as it can accommodate consistent with social distancing requirements in courtrooms and outside hallways of the courthouse.

Eating in courthouse hallways and courtrooms by the public shall be prohibited at all times.

Sheriff's Department personnel are directed to enforce the mandatory face mask requirement and social distancing protocols in courthouses.

**FILED**  
Clerk of the Superior Court

DEC 17 2020  
By   
DEPUTY CLERK

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
COUNTY OF SOLANO**

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ORDER LIMITING COURTHOUSE ACCESS

MISC. NO. M-18-2020

Since March 2020, when state and local public health officials issued stay-at-home orders in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Court has endeavored to strike a balance between preserving access to justice and safeguarding the well-being of those who work in and use its courthouses. Initially, it continued cases pursuant to the authority of the Chief Justice granted under Government Code section 68115 and limited operations to statutorily mandated, urgent or emergent matters. To operate trial courts safely during the pandemic, the Court implemented health and safety measures.

The Court began ramping up operations in June and July 2020. To reduce the number of people in its courthouses, it implemented technology to facilitate remote appearances, collaborated with justice agencies to implement multiple measures to decrease courthouse traffic, and authorized as many of its employees to telework as the work of the Court permitted.

1 Recently, despite mandatory and previous orders requiring the use of face masks and  
2 social distancing and ubiquitous signage in each courthouse reiterating the face mask and  
3 social distancing mandates, attorneys, litigants, and others remove their masks, wear their  
4 mask improperly, and/or fail to observe social distancing while in courthouses. Non-  
5 compliance with the basic protective measures that this Court has repeatedly required by way  
6 of prior orders to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus may increase infections.

7 On Thursday, December 17, 2020, Solano County reported 2,024 active COVID-19  
8 infections. Moreover, the seven-day testing positivity rate continues to rise alarmingly and  
9 now stands at 18%. Due to the rise in the spread of the COVID-19 virus, which public health  
10 officials describe as dangerous, the Court must take the following additional protective  
11 measures.

12 **THE COURT HEREBY FINDS AND ORDERS AS FOLLOWS:**

13 **Courthouse Access**

- 14 1. In the interest of enforcing social distancing and to reduce the number of people  
15 in courthouses, access to courthouses is restricted at all times to judicial officers,  
16 co-lessees, Judicial Council staff, vendors, jurors, mediators, authorized persons  
17 (which includes, but is not limited to, news media representatives and news  
18 reporters), attorneys, litigants and witnesses with matters on calendars, and  
19 individuals with appointments.
- 20 2. In the interest of enforcing social distancing and reducing the number of people  
21 in courthouses, effective Thursday, December 17, 2020, members of the public,  
22 not otherwise referenced above, who wish to attend a court proceeding may do  
23 so upon advance request and at the discretion of the judicial officer presiding  
24 over the matter. Instructions on how to make such a request are available on  
25 the Court's website at the Court's COVID page in the document titled Access to



1 Remote Court Proceedings. All persons attending court proceedings, whether in  
2 person or remotely, must comply with applicable California Rules of Court,  
3 including Rule 1.150. There shall be no unauthorized recording of the court  
4 proceeding, hearing or trial.

- 5 3. Attorneys, litigants, witnesses, and authorized persons are prohibited from  
6 gathering with or speaking to anyone outside their household in courthouse  
7 hallways or other public areas of the Court unless they can do so at least six feet  
8 apart from each other and while wearing a mask over their nose and mouth.
- 9 4. To enforce social distancing, each court department shall schedule only the  
10 number of matters during each session as it can accommodate consistent with  
11 social distancing requirements in courtrooms and outside hallways of the  
12 courthouse.
- 13 5. Eating in courthouse hallways and courtrooms shall be prohibited at all times.
- 14 6. Sheriff's Department personnel are directed to enforce this Order and the Court's  
15 Amended Face Mask Order 12-16-20.
- 16

17 **THIS ORDER IS EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, AND THIS ENTIRE ORDER SHALL**  
18 **REMAIN IN EFFECT UNTIL RESCINDED OR SUPERSEDED BY ANOTHER ORDER, AND**  
19 **MAY BE AMENDED AS CIRCUMSTANCES REQUIRE.**

20  
21 Dated: December 17, 2020



22 Donna Stashyn  
23 Presiding Judge  
24 Solano County Superior Court  
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